

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An exposure apparatus which transfers a pattern onto a substrate with exposure light, comprising:

a partition wall which encloses a path of exposure light and isolates the path from surroundings; and

a connecting member in a tubular form which connects a structure supported independently of said partition wall and said partition wall and sustains airtightness in a space enclosed with said partition wall,

wherein a section of said connecting member, taken in a direction perpendicular to an axis of said connecting member, has a three-dimensional portion.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the section of said connecting member has a plurality of three-dimensional portions.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said connecting member connects the structure and said partition wall in an axially compressed state.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said connecting member is made of a material selected from the group consisting of resin and rubber.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said connecting member is made of fluororubber.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said connecting member is made of a material having a

thickness of not more than 2 mm.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said connecting member is arranged to be resistant to a gage pressure of not more than 1 MPa.

5 8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the tubular form includes a structure which has a polygonal section with a three-dimensional portion.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the tubular form includes a structure which has a circular section with a three-dimensional portion.

10 The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the structure is supported by a vibration isolating mechanism, and said partition wall is supported by a structure which can transmit vibrations to said

15 partition wall.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said partition wall is supported by a support member which receives vibrations from a floor.

12. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said partition wall connects to a second structure other than the structure through a second connecting member, and the second connecting member has the same structure as a structure of said connecting member.

13. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the structure is supported by a structure which can transmit vibrations to the structure, and said partition wall is supported through a vibration

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isolating mechanism.

14. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a stage is arranged in the space enclosed with said partition wall.

- 5 15. A device manufacturing method comprising:
a step of transferring a pattern onto a substrate using an exposure apparatus as defined in claim 1; and
a step of developing the substrate.